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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/583,307	03/06/2007	Kiyoshi Sadakata	KAM 22.600 (100799-00133)	5093
26304 7590 01/15/2009 KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP 575 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10022-2585			EXAMINER FREEDMAN, LAURA	
			ART UNIT 3616	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 01/15/2009	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/583,307	Applicant(s) SADAKATA, KIYOSHI	
	Examiner LAURA FREEDMAN	Art Unit 3616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 June 0506.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

Species I: Figures 1, 2;

Species II: Figures 3, 4;

Species III: Figures 5, 6;

Species IV: Figures 7, 8;

Species V: Figures 9, 10;

Species VI: Figures 11, 12;

Species VII: Figures 13;

Species VIII: Figures 18, 19;

Species IX: Figures 20;

Species X: Figures 21;

Species XI: Figures 22;

Species XII: Figures 24;

Species XIII: Figures 25;

Species XIV: Figures 26;

Species XV: Figures 27;

Species XVI: Figures 28;

Species XVII: Figures 29;

Species XVIII: Figures 30-32.

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Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

2. The claims appear to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

Species I: Claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 10;

Species II: Claims 1, 5, 10;

Species III: Claims 1, 3, 5, 10;

Species IV: Claims 1, 5, 9, 10;

Species V: Claims 1, 5, 10;

Species VI: Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 18, 21;

Species VII: Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 18, 21;

Species VIII: Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 21;

Species IX: Claims 1, 10, 11, 18, 21;

Species X: Claims 1, 10, 11, 15, 18, 21;

Species XI: Claims 1, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21;

Species XII: Claims 1, 10, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 34;

Species XIII: Claims 1, 10, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 31, 34;

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Species XIV: Claims 1, 10, 22, 23, 27, 28, 31, 34;

Species XV: Claims 1, 10, 20, 22, 23, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34;

Species XVI: Claims 1, 10, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34;

Species XVII: Claims 1, 10, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 31, 34;

Species XVIII: Claims 1, 10, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34.

The following claim(s) appear to be generic: 1 and 10.

3. The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The protrusions, spacers, weld locations, uneven or even spacing of engaging portions, circumferential and axial spacing of engaging portions, location of inner and outer columns with respect to support bracket, and other special technical features differentiate the species from each other.

4. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LAURA FREEDMAN whose telephone number is (571) 272-2442. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-6952. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/John Q. Nguyen/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3616

Laura Freedman
Examiner
Art Unit 3616